

Claim 1 (original): Pressure-air driven percussion device for a down-the-hole drill (1) with a hammer-piston (6) which is axially reciprocally movable in a hammer-piston chamber (18) through a driving device (9), said hammer-piston (6) in operation acting with a hammer-end (16) against an upper end (17) of a drill bit (2) which is positioned inside a chuck (3), wherein an air cushion for reducing percussive power is arranged to be formed at the hammer-end of the hammer-piston in positions where the drill bit (2) has been moved passed a predetermined distance in the percussion direction, characterised in

- that the drill bit (2) is sealingly slidably supported in a drill bit bushing (5), and
- that the hammer-end (16) of the hammer-piston (6) is formed so that it sealingly cooperates with the drill bit bushing (5) in said positions in order to form said air-cushion (19).

Claim 2 (original): Percussion device according to claim 1, characterised in that an upper end portion (17) of the drill bit (2) is sealingly, slidably supported in the drill bit bushing (5).

Claim 3 (currently amended): Percussion device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterised in that said air-cushion is arranged to be formed in a volume (19) defined by the upper end (17) of the drill bit (2), the drill bit bushing (5) and the hammer-end (16) of the hammer-piston (6).

Claim 4 (currently amended): Percussion device according to claim 1 ~~any of the previous claims~~,

characterised in that the drill bit bushing (5) is arranged to be supported by a housing (4) of the down-the-hole drill (1).

Claim 5 (currently amended): Percussion device according to claim 1 ~~any of the previous claims~~, characterised in that the hammer-piston chamber (18) is formed by a housing of the down-the-hole drill (1).

Claim 6 (currently amended): Percussion device according to claim 1 ~~any of the previous claims~~, characterised in that the driving device (9) includes a leakage passage (12, 13, 14) for the pressure-air, through which a flushing position is established, wherein pressure-air is allowed to leak passed the driving device (9) in far advanced positions in the percussion direction of the hammer-piston (6).

Claim 7 (currently amended): Percussion device according to claim 1 ~~any of the previous claims~~, characterised in that the hammer-piston (6) is provided with a central axial channel (8) which continuous in the drill bit (2) over a foot valve (7), which is fastened in the drill bit (2) and seals against the hammer-piston (6).

Claim 8 (original): Percussion device according to claim 7, characterised in that the air-cushion is also limited by the outside surface of the foot valve (7).

Claim 9 (currently amended): Down-the-hole drill (1) including a percussion device according to claim 1 ~~any of the previous claims~~.